

## Observation of $CP$ Violation in $B^0$ Decays

- B. Aubert,<sup>1</sup> D. Boutigny,<sup>1</sup> J.-M. Gaillard,<sup>1</sup> A. Hicheur,<sup>1</sup> Y. Karyotakis,<sup>1</sup> J. P. Lees,<sup>1</sup> P. Robbe,<sup>1</sup> V. Tisserand,<sup>1</sup> A. Palano,<sup>2</sup> G. P. Chen,<sup>3</sup> J. C. Chen,<sup>3</sup> N. D. Qi,<sup>3</sup> G. Rong,<sup>3</sup> P. Wang,<sup>3</sup> Y. S. Zhu,<sup>3</sup> G. Eigen,<sup>4</sup> P. L. Reinertsen,<sup>4</sup> B. Stugu,<sup>4</sup> B. Abbott,<sup>5</sup> G. S. Abrams,<sup>5</sup> A. W. Borgland,<sup>5</sup> A. B. Breon,<sup>5</sup> D. N. Brown,<sup>5</sup> J. Button-Shafer,<sup>5</sup> R. N. Cahn,<sup>5</sup> A. R. Clark,<sup>5</sup> M. S. Gill,<sup>5</sup> A. V. Gritsan,<sup>5</sup> Y. Groysman,<sup>5</sup> R. G. Jacobsen,<sup>5</sup> R. W. Kadel,<sup>5</sup> J. Kadyk,<sup>5</sup> L. T. Kerth,<sup>5</sup> S. Kluth,<sup>5</sup> Yu. G. Kolomensky,<sup>5</sup> J. F. Kral,<sup>5</sup> C. LeClerc,<sup>5</sup> M. E. Levi,<sup>5</sup> T. Liu,<sup>5</sup> G. Lynch,<sup>5</sup> A. B. Meyer,<sup>5</sup> M. Momayezi,<sup>5</sup> P. J. Oddone,<sup>5</sup> A. Perazzo,<sup>5</sup> M. Pripstein,<sup>5</sup> N. A. Roe,<sup>5</sup> A. Romosan,<sup>5</sup> M. T. Ronan,<sup>5</sup> V. G. Shelkov,<sup>5</sup> A. V. Telnov,<sup>5</sup> W. A. Wenzel,<sup>5</sup> P. G. Bright-Thomas,<sup>6</sup> T. J. Harrison,<sup>6</sup> C. M. Hawkes,<sup>6</sup> D. J. Knowles,<sup>6</sup> S. W. O'Neale,<sup>6</sup> R. C. Penny,<sup>6</sup> A. T. Watson,<sup>6</sup> N. K. Watson,<sup>6</sup> T. Deppermann,<sup>7</sup> K. Goetzen,<sup>7</sup> H. Koch,<sup>7</sup> J. Krug,<sup>7</sup> M. Kunze,<sup>7</sup> B. Lewandowski,<sup>7</sup> K. Peters,<sup>7</sup> H. Schmuecker,<sup>7</sup> M. Steinke,<sup>7</sup> J. C. Andress,<sup>8</sup> N. R. Barlow,<sup>8</sup> W. Bhimji,<sup>8</sup> N. Chevalier,<sup>8</sup> P. J. Clark,<sup>8</sup> W. N. Cottingham,<sup>8</sup> N. De Groot,<sup>8</sup> N. Dyce,<sup>8</sup> B. Foster,<sup>8</sup> J. D. McFall,<sup>8</sup> D. Wallom,<sup>8</sup> F. F. Wilson,<sup>8</sup> K. Abe,<sup>9</sup> C. Hearty,<sup>9</sup> T. S. Mattison,<sup>9</sup> J. A. McKenna,<sup>9</sup> D. Thiessen,<sup>9</sup> S. Jolly,<sup>10</sup> A. K. McKemey,<sup>10</sup> J. Tinslay,<sup>10</sup> V. E. Blinov,<sup>11</sup> A. D. Bukin,<sup>11</sup> D. A. Bukin,<sup>11</sup> A. R. Buzykaev,<sup>11</sup> V. B. Golubev,<sup>11</sup> V. N. Ivanchenko,<sup>11</sup> A. A. Korol,<sup>11</sup> E. A. Kravchenko,<sup>11</sup> A. P. Onuchin,<sup>11</sup> A. A. Salnikov,<sup>11</sup> S. I. Serednyakov,<sup>11</sup> Yu. I. Skovpen,<sup>11</sup> V. I. Telnov,<sup>11</sup> A. N. Yushkov,<sup>11</sup> D. Best,<sup>12</sup> A. J. Lankford,<sup>12</sup> M. Mandelkern,<sup>12</sup> S. McMahon,<sup>12</sup> D. P. Stoker,<sup>12</sup> A. Ahsan,<sup>13</sup> K. Arisaka,<sup>13</sup> C. Buchanan,<sup>13</sup> S. Chun,<sup>13</sup> J. G. Branson,<sup>14</sup> D. B. MacFarlane,<sup>14</sup> S. Prell,<sup>14</sup> Sh. Rahatlou,<sup>14</sup> G. Raven,<sup>14</sup> V. Sharma,<sup>14</sup> C. Campagnari,<sup>15</sup> B. Dahmes,<sup>15</sup> P. A. Hart,<sup>15</sup> N. Kuznetsova,<sup>15</sup> S. L. Levy,<sup>15</sup> O. Long,<sup>15</sup> A. Lu,<sup>15</sup> J. D. Richman,<sup>15</sup> W. Verkerke,<sup>15</sup> M. Witherell,<sup>15</sup> S. Yellin,<sup>15</sup> J. Beringer,<sup>16</sup> D. E. Dorfan,<sup>16</sup> A. M. Eisner,<sup>16</sup> A. Frey,<sup>16</sup> A. A. Grillo,<sup>16</sup> M. Grothe,<sup>16</sup> C. A. Heusch,<sup>16</sup> R. P. Johnson,<sup>16</sup> W. Kroeger,<sup>16</sup> W. S. Lockman,<sup>16</sup> T. Pulliam,<sup>16</sup> H. Sadrozinski,<sup>16</sup> T. Schalk,<sup>16</sup> R. E. Schmitz,<sup>16</sup> B. A. Schumm,<sup>16</sup> A. Seiden,<sup>16</sup> M. Turri,<sup>16</sup> W. Walkowiak,<sup>16</sup> D. C. Williams,<sup>16</sup> M. G. Wilson,<sup>16</sup> E. Chen,<sup>17</sup> G. P. Dubois-Felsmann,<sup>17</sup> A. Dvoretskii,<sup>17</sup> D. G. Hitlin,<sup>17</sup> S. Metzler,<sup>17</sup> J. Oyang,<sup>17</sup> F. C. Porter,<sup>17</sup> A. Ryd,<sup>17</sup> A. Samuel,<sup>17</sup> M. Weaver,<sup>17</sup> S. Yang,<sup>17</sup> R. Y. Zhu,<sup>17</sup> S. Devmal,<sup>18</sup> T. L. Geld,<sup>18</sup> S. Jayatilleke,<sup>18</sup> G. Mancinelli,<sup>18</sup> B. T. Meadows,<sup>18</sup> M. D. Sokoloff,<sup>18</sup> T. Barillari,<sup>19</sup> P. Bloom,<sup>19</sup> M. O. Dima,<sup>19</sup> S. Fahey,<sup>19</sup> W. T. Ford,<sup>19</sup> D. R. Johnson,<sup>19</sup> U. Nauenberg,<sup>19</sup> A. Olivas,<sup>19</sup> H. Park,<sup>19</sup> P. Rankin,<sup>19</sup> J. Roy,<sup>19</sup> S. Sen,<sup>19</sup> J. G. Smith,<sup>19</sup> W. C. van Hoek,<sup>19</sup> D. L. Wagner,<sup>19</sup> J. Blouw,<sup>20</sup> J. L. Harton,<sup>20</sup> M. Krishnamurthy,<sup>20</sup> A. Soffer,<sup>20</sup> W. H. Toki,<sup>20</sup> R. J. Wilson,<sup>20</sup> J. Zhang,<sup>20</sup> T. Brandt,<sup>21</sup> J. Brose,<sup>21</sup> T. Colberg,<sup>21</sup> G. Dahlinger,<sup>21</sup> M. Dickopp,<sup>21</sup> R. S. Dubitzky,<sup>21</sup> A. Hauke,<sup>21</sup> E. Maly,<sup>21</sup> R. Müller-Pfefferkorn,<sup>21</sup> S. Otto,<sup>21</sup> K. R. Schubert,<sup>21</sup> R. Schwierz,<sup>21</sup> B. Spaan,<sup>21</sup> L. Wilden,<sup>21</sup> L. Behr,<sup>22</sup> D. Bernard,<sup>22</sup> G. R. Bonneau,<sup>22</sup> F. Brochard,<sup>22</sup> J. Cohen-Tanugi,<sup>22</sup> S. Ferrag,<sup>22</sup> E. Roussot,<sup>22</sup> S. T'Jampens,<sup>22</sup> Ch. Thiebaux,<sup>22</sup> G. Vasileiadis,<sup>22</sup> M. Verderi,<sup>22</sup> A. Anjomshoaa,<sup>23</sup> R. Bernet,<sup>23</sup> A. Khan,<sup>23</sup> D. Lavin,<sup>23</sup> F. Muheim,<sup>23</sup> S. Playfer,<sup>23</sup> J. E. Swain,<sup>23</sup> M. Falbo,<sup>24</sup> C. Borean,<sup>25</sup> C. Bozzi,<sup>25</sup> S. Dittongo,<sup>25</sup> M. Folegani,<sup>25</sup> L. Piemontese,<sup>25</sup> E. Treadwell,<sup>26</sup> F. Anulli,<sup>27,\*</sup> R. Baldini-Ferroli,<sup>27</sup> A. Calcaterra,<sup>27</sup> R. de Sangro,<sup>27</sup> D. Falciai,<sup>27</sup> G. Finocchiaro,<sup>27</sup> P. Patteri,<sup>27</sup> I. M. Peruzzi,<sup>27,\*</sup> M. Piccolo,<sup>27</sup> Y. Xie,<sup>27</sup> A. Zallo,<sup>27</sup> S. Bagnasco,<sup>28</sup> A. Buzzo,<sup>28</sup> R. Contri,<sup>28</sup> G. Crosetti,<sup>28</sup> P. Fabbricatore,<sup>28</sup> S. Farinon,<sup>28</sup> M. Lo Vetere,<sup>28</sup> M. Macri,<sup>28</sup> M. R. Monge,<sup>28</sup> R. Musenich,<sup>28</sup> M. Pallavicini,<sup>28</sup> R. Parodi,<sup>28</sup> S. Passaggio,<sup>28</sup> F. C. Pastore,<sup>28</sup> C. Patrignani,<sup>28</sup> M. G. Pia,<sup>28</sup> C. Priano,<sup>28</sup> E. Robutti,<sup>28</sup> A. Santroni,<sup>28</sup> M. Morii,<sup>29</sup> R. Bartoldus,<sup>30</sup> T. Dignan,<sup>30</sup> R. Hamilton,<sup>30</sup> U. Mallik,<sup>30</sup> J. Cochran,<sup>31</sup> H. B. Crawley,<sup>31</sup> P.-A. Fischer,<sup>31</sup> J. Lamsa,<sup>31</sup> W. T. Meyer,<sup>31</sup> E. I. Rosenberg,<sup>31</sup> M. Benkebil,<sup>32</sup> G. Grosdidier,<sup>32</sup> C. Hast,<sup>32</sup> A. Höcker,<sup>32</sup> H. M. Lacker,<sup>32</sup> S. Laplace,<sup>32</sup> V. Lepeltier,<sup>32</sup> A. M. Lutz,<sup>32</sup> S. Plaszczynski,<sup>32</sup> M. H. Schune,<sup>32</sup> S. Trincaz-Duvoid,<sup>32</sup> A. Valassi,<sup>32</sup> G. Wormser,<sup>32</sup> R. M. Bionta,<sup>33</sup> V. Brigljević,<sup>33</sup> D. J. Lange,<sup>33</sup> M. Mugge,<sup>33</sup> X. Shi,<sup>33</sup> K. van Bibber,<sup>33</sup> T. J. Wenaus,<sup>33</sup> D. M. Wright,<sup>33</sup> C. R. Wuest,<sup>33</sup> M. Carroll,<sup>34</sup> J. R. Fry,<sup>34</sup> E. Gabathuler,<sup>34</sup> R. Gamet,<sup>34</sup> M. George,<sup>34</sup> M. Kay,<sup>34</sup> D. J. Payne,<sup>34</sup> R. J. Sloane,<sup>34</sup> C. Touramanis,<sup>34</sup> M. L. Aspinwall,<sup>35</sup> D. A. Bowerman,<sup>35</sup> P. D. Dauncey,<sup>35</sup> U. Egede,<sup>35</sup> I. Eschrich,<sup>35</sup> N. J. W. Gunawardane,<sup>35</sup> J. A. Nash,<sup>35</sup> P. Sanders,<sup>35</sup> D. Smith,<sup>35</sup> D. E. Azzopardi,<sup>36</sup> J. J. Back,<sup>36</sup> P. Dixon,<sup>36</sup> P. F. Harrison,<sup>36</sup> R. J. L. Potter,<sup>36</sup> H. W. Shorthouse,<sup>36</sup> P. Strother,<sup>36</sup> P. B. Vidal,<sup>36</sup> M. I. Williams,<sup>36</sup> G. Cowan,<sup>37</sup> S. George,<sup>37</sup> M. G. Green,<sup>37</sup> A. Kurup,<sup>37</sup> C. E. Marker,<sup>37</sup> P. McGrath,<sup>37</sup>

T. R. McMahon,<sup>37</sup> S. Ricciardi,<sup>37</sup> F. Salvatore,<sup>37</sup> I. Scott,<sup>37</sup> G. Vaitas,<sup>37</sup> D. Brown,<sup>38</sup> C. L. Davis,<sup>38</sup> J. Allison,<sup>39</sup> R. J. Barlow,<sup>39</sup> J. T. Boyd,<sup>39</sup> A. C. Forti,<sup>39</sup> J. Fullwood,<sup>39</sup> F. Jackson,<sup>39</sup> G. D. Lafferty,<sup>39</sup> N. Savvas,<sup>39</sup> E. T. Simopoulos,<sup>39</sup> J. H. Weatherall,<sup>39</sup> A. Farbin,<sup>40</sup> A. Jawahery,<sup>40</sup> V. Lillard,<sup>40</sup> J. Olsen,<sup>40</sup> D. A. Roberts,<sup>40</sup> J. R. Schieck,<sup>40</sup> G. Blaylock,<sup>41</sup> C. Dallapiccola,<sup>41</sup> K. T. Flood,<sup>41</sup> S. S. Hertzbach,<sup>41</sup> R. Kofler,<sup>41</sup> T. B. Moore,<sup>41</sup> H. Staengle,<sup>41</sup> S. Willocq,<sup>41</sup> B. Brau,<sup>42</sup> R. Cowan,<sup>42</sup> G. Sciolla,<sup>42</sup> F. Taylor,<sup>42</sup> R. K. Yamamoto,<sup>42</sup> M. Milek,<sup>43</sup> P. M. Patel,<sup>43</sup> J. Trischuk,<sup>43</sup> F. Lanni,<sup>44</sup> F. Palombo,<sup>44</sup> J. M. Bauer,<sup>45</sup> M. Boone,<sup>45</sup> L. Cremaldi,<sup>45</sup> V. Eschenburg,<sup>45</sup> R. Kroeger,<sup>45</sup> J. Reidy,<sup>45</sup> D. A. Sanders,<sup>45</sup> D. J. Summers,<sup>45</sup> J. P. Martin,<sup>46</sup> J. Y. Nief,<sup>46</sup> R. Seitz,<sup>46</sup> P. Taras,<sup>46</sup> A. Woch,<sup>46</sup> V. Zacek,<sup>46</sup> H. Nicholson,<sup>47</sup> C. S. Sutton,<sup>47</sup> C. Cartaro,<sup>48</sup> N. Cavallo,<sup>48</sup>,<sup>†</sup> G. De Nardo,<sup>48</sup> F. Fabozzi,<sup>48</sup> C. Gatto,<sup>48</sup> L. Lista,<sup>48</sup> P. Paolucci,<sup>48</sup> D. Piccolo,<sup>48</sup> C. Sciacca,<sup>48</sup> J. M. LoSecco,<sup>49</sup> J. R. G. Alsmiller,<sup>50</sup> T. A. Gabriel,<sup>50</sup> T. Handler,<sup>50</sup> J. Brau,<sup>51</sup> R. Frey,<sup>51</sup> M. Iwasaki,<sup>51</sup> N. B. Sinev,<sup>51</sup> D. Strom,<sup>51</sup> F. Colecchia,<sup>52</sup> F. Dal Corso,<sup>52</sup> A. Dorigo,<sup>52</sup> F. Galeazzi,<sup>52</sup> M. Margoni,<sup>52</sup> G. Michelon,<sup>52</sup> M. Morandin,<sup>52</sup> M. Posocco,<sup>52</sup> M. Rotondo,<sup>52</sup> F. Simonetto,<sup>52</sup> R. Stroili,<sup>52</sup> E. Torassa,<sup>52</sup> C. Voci,<sup>52</sup> M. Benayoun,<sup>53</sup> H. Briand,<sup>53</sup> J. Chauveau,<sup>53</sup> P. David,<sup>53</sup> Ch. de la Vaissière,<sup>53</sup> L. Del Buono,<sup>53</sup> O. Hamon,<sup>53</sup> F. Le Diberder,<sup>53</sup> Ph. Leruste,<sup>53</sup> J. Lory,<sup>53</sup> L. Roos,<sup>53</sup> J. Stark,<sup>53</sup> S. Versillé,<sup>53</sup> P. F. Manfredi,<sup>54</sup> V. Re,<sup>54</sup> V. Speziali,<sup>54</sup> E. D. Frank,<sup>55</sup> L. Gladney,<sup>55</sup> Q. H. Guo,<sup>55</sup> J. H. Panetta,<sup>55</sup> C. Angelini,<sup>56</sup> G. Batignani,<sup>56</sup> S. Bettarini,<sup>56</sup> M. Bondioli,<sup>56</sup> M. Carpinelli,<sup>56</sup> F. Forti,<sup>56</sup> M. A. Giorgi,<sup>56</sup> A. Lusiani,<sup>56</sup> F. Martinez-Vidal,<sup>56</sup> M. Morganti,<sup>56</sup> N. Neri,<sup>56</sup> E. Paoloni,<sup>56</sup> M. Rama,<sup>56</sup> G. Rizzo,<sup>56</sup> F. Sandrelli,<sup>56</sup> G. Simi,<sup>56</sup> G. Triggiani,<sup>56</sup> J. Walsh,<sup>56</sup> M. Haire,<sup>57</sup> D. Judd,<sup>57</sup> K. Paick,<sup>57</sup> L. Turnbull,<sup>57</sup> D. E. Wagoner,<sup>57</sup> J. Albert,<sup>58</sup> C. Bula,<sup>58</sup> P. Elmer,<sup>58</sup> C. Lu,<sup>58</sup> K. T. McDonald,<sup>58</sup> V. Miftakov,<sup>58</sup> S. F. Schaffner,<sup>58</sup> A. J. S. Smith,<sup>58</sup> A. Tumanov,<sup>58</sup> E. W. Varnes,<sup>58</sup> G. Cavoto,<sup>59</sup> D. del Re,<sup>59</sup> R. Faccini,<sup>14</sup>,<sup>59</sup> F. Ferrarotto,<sup>59</sup> F. Ferroni,<sup>59</sup> K. Fratini,<sup>59</sup> E. Lamanna,<sup>59</sup> E. Leonardi,<sup>59</sup> M. A. Mazzoni,<sup>59</sup> S. Morganti,<sup>59</sup> G. Piredda,<sup>59</sup> F. Safai Tehrani,<sup>59</sup> M. Serra,<sup>59</sup> C. Voena,<sup>59</sup> S. Christ,<sup>60</sup> R. Waldi,<sup>60</sup> P. F. Jacques,<sup>61</sup> M. Kalelkar,<sup>61</sup> R. J. Plano,<sup>61</sup> T. Adye,<sup>62</sup> B. Franek,<sup>62</sup> N. I. Geddes,<sup>62</sup> G. P. Gopal,<sup>62</sup> S. M. Xella,<sup>62</sup> R. Aleksan,<sup>63</sup> G. De Domenico,<sup>63</sup> S. Emery,<sup>63</sup> A. Gaidot,<sup>63</sup> S. F. Ganzhur,<sup>63</sup> P.-F. GIRAUD,<sup>63</sup> G. Hamel de Monchenault,<sup>63</sup> W. Kozanecki,<sup>63</sup> M. Langer,<sup>63</sup> G. W. London,<sup>63</sup> B. Mayer,<sup>63</sup> B. Serfass,<sup>63</sup> G. Vasseur,<sup>63</sup> Ch. Yèche,<sup>63</sup> M. Zito,<sup>63</sup> N. Copty,<sup>64</sup> M. V. Purohit,<sup>64</sup> H. Singh,<sup>64</sup> F. X. Yumiceva,<sup>64</sup> I. Adam,<sup>65</sup> P. L. Anthony,<sup>65</sup> D. Aston,<sup>65</sup> K. Baird,<sup>65</sup> J. P. Berger,<sup>65</sup> E. Bloom,<sup>65</sup> A. M. Boyarski,<sup>65</sup> F. Bulos,<sup>65</sup> G. Calderini,<sup>65</sup> M. R. Convery,<sup>65</sup> D. P. Coupal,<sup>65</sup> D. H. Coward,<sup>65</sup> J. Dorfan,<sup>65</sup> M. Doser,<sup>65</sup> W. Dunwoodie,<sup>65</sup> R. C. Field,<sup>65</sup> T. Glanzman,<sup>65</sup> G. L. Godfrey,<sup>65</sup> S. J. Gowdy,<sup>65</sup> P. Grossi,<sup>65</sup> T. Himel,<sup>65</sup> T. Hryna'ova,<sup>65</sup> M. E. Huffer,<sup>65</sup> W. R. Innes,<sup>65</sup> C. P. Jessop,<sup>65</sup> M. H. Kelsey,<sup>65</sup> P. Kim,<sup>65</sup> M. L. Kocian,<sup>65</sup> U. Langenegger,<sup>65</sup> D. W. G. S. Leith,<sup>65</sup> S. Luitz,<sup>65</sup> V. Luth,<sup>65</sup> H. L. Lynch,<sup>65</sup> H. Marsiske,<sup>65</sup> S. Menke,<sup>65</sup> R. Messner,<sup>65</sup> K. C. Moffett,<sup>65</sup> R. Mount,<sup>65</sup> D. R. Muller,<sup>65</sup> C. P. O'Grady,<sup>65</sup> M. Perl,<sup>65</sup> S. Petrak,<sup>65</sup> H. Quinn,<sup>65</sup> B. N. Ratcliff,<sup>65</sup> S. H. Robertson,<sup>65</sup> L. S. Rochester,<sup>65</sup> A. Roodman,<sup>65</sup> T. Schietinger,<sup>65</sup> R. H. Schindler,<sup>65</sup> J. Schwiening,<sup>65</sup> V. V. Serbo,<sup>65</sup> A. Snyder,<sup>65</sup> A. Soha,<sup>65</sup> S. M. Spanier,<sup>65</sup> J. Stelzer,<sup>65</sup> D. Su,<sup>65</sup> M. K. Sullivan,<sup>65</sup> H. A. Tanaka,<sup>65</sup> J. Va'vra,<sup>65</sup> S. R. Wagner,<sup>65</sup> A. J. R. Weinstein,<sup>65</sup> W. J. Wisniewski,<sup>65</sup> D. H. Wright,<sup>65</sup> C. C. Young,<sup>65</sup> P. R. Burchat,<sup>66</sup> C. H. Cheng,<sup>66</sup> D. Kirkby,<sup>66</sup> T. I. Meyer,<sup>66</sup> C. Roat,<sup>66</sup> A. De Silva,<sup>67</sup> R. Henderson,<sup>67</sup> W. Bugg,<sup>68</sup> H. Cohn,<sup>68</sup> A. W. Weidemann,<sup>68</sup> J. M. Izen,<sup>69</sup> I. Kitayama,<sup>69</sup> X. C. Lou,<sup>69</sup> M. Turcotte,<sup>69</sup> F. Bianchi,<sup>70</sup> M. Bona,<sup>70</sup> B. Di Girolamo,<sup>70</sup> D. Gamba,<sup>70</sup> A. Smol,<sup>70</sup> D. Zanin,<sup>70</sup> L. Bosisio,<sup>71</sup> G. Della Ricca,<sup>71</sup> L. Lanceri,<sup>71</sup> A. Pompili,<sup>71</sup> P. Poropat,<sup>71</sup> M. Prest,<sup>71</sup> E. Vallazza,<sup>71</sup> G. Vuagnin,<sup>71</sup> R. S. Panvini,<sup>72</sup> C. M. Brown,<sup>73</sup> R. Kowalewski,<sup>73</sup> J. M. Roney,<sup>73</sup> H. R. Band,<sup>74</sup> E. Charles,<sup>74</sup> S. Dasu,<sup>74</sup> F. Di Lodovico,<sup>74</sup> A. M. Eichenbaum,<sup>74</sup> H. Hu,<sup>74</sup> J. R. Johnson,<sup>74</sup> R. Liu,<sup>74</sup> J. Nielsen,<sup>74</sup> Y. Pan,<sup>74</sup> R. Prepost,<sup>74</sup> I. J. Scott,<sup>74</sup> S. J. Sekula,<sup>74</sup> J. H. von Wimmersperg-Toeller,<sup>74</sup> S. L. Wu,<sup>74</sup> Z. Yu,<sup>74</sup> H. Zobernig,<sup>74</sup> T. M. B. Kordich,<sup>75</sup> H. Neal,<sup>75</sup>

(The BABAR Collaboration),

<sup>1</sup>Laboratoire de Physique des Particules, F-74941 Annecy-le-Vieux, France

<sup>2</sup>Università di Bari, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-70126 Bari, Italy

<sup>3</sup>Institute of High Energy Physics, Beijing 100039, China

<sup>4</sup>University of Bergen, Inst. of Physics, N-5007 Bergen, Norway

<sup>5</sup>Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

<sup>6</sup>University of Birmingham, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom

<sup>7</sup>Ruhr Universität Bochum, Institut für Experimentalphysik 1, D-44780 Bochum, Germany

<sup>8</sup>University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1TL, United Kingdom

<sup>9</sup>University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z1

<sup>10</sup>Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH, United Kingdom

<sup>11</sup>Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, Novosibirsk 630090, Russia

<sup>12</sup>University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697, USA

<sup>13</sup>University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA 90024, USA

- <sup>14</sup> University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, USA  
<sup>15</sup> University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA  
<sup>16</sup> University of California at Santa Cruz, Institute for Particle Physics, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA  
<sup>17</sup> California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA  
<sup>18</sup> University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221, USA  
<sup>19</sup> University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309, USA  
<sup>20</sup> Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, USA  
<sup>21</sup> Technische Universität Dresden, Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, D-01062, Dresden, Germany  
<sup>22</sup> Ecole Polytechnique, F-91128 Palaiseau, France  
<sup>23</sup> University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, United Kingdom  
<sup>24</sup> Elon University, Elon University, NC 27244-2010, USA  
<sup>25</sup> Università di Ferrara, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-44100 Ferrara, Italy  
<sup>26</sup> Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL 32307, USA  
<sup>27</sup> Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati dell'INFN, I-00044 Frascati, Italy  
<sup>28</sup> Università di Genova, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-16146 Genova, Italy  
<sup>29</sup> Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
<sup>30</sup> University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA  
<sup>31</sup> Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3160, USA  
<sup>32</sup> Laboratoire de l'Accélérateur Linéaire, F-91898 Orsay, France  
<sup>33</sup> Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA 94550, USA  
<sup>34</sup> University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX, United Kingdom  
<sup>35</sup> University of London, Imperial College, London, SW7 2BW, United Kingdom  
<sup>36</sup> Queen Mary, University of London, E1 4NS, United Kingdom  
<sup>37</sup> University of London, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, United Kingdom  
<sup>38</sup> University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292, USA  
<sup>39</sup> University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom  
<sup>40</sup> University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA  
<sup>41</sup> University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, USA  
<sup>42</sup> Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Laboratory for Nuclear Science, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA  
<sup>43</sup> McGill University, Montréal, Canada QC H3A 2T8  
<sup>44</sup> Università di Milano, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-20133 Milano, Italy  
<sup>45</sup> University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, USA  
<sup>46</sup> Université de Montréal, Laboratoire René J. A. Lévesque, Montréal, Canada QC H3C 3J7  
<sup>47</sup> Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA 01075, USA  
<sup>48</sup> Università di Napoli Federico II, Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche and INFN, I-80126, Napoli, Italy  
<sup>49</sup> University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA  
<sup>50</sup> Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN 37831, USA  
<sup>51</sup> University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, USA  
<sup>52</sup> Università di Padova, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-35131 Padova, Italy  
<sup>53</sup> Universités Paris VI et VII, Lab de Physique Nucléaire H. E., F-75252 Paris, France  
<sup>54</sup> Università di Pavia, Dipartimento di Elettronica and INFN, I-27100 Pavia, Italy  
<sup>55</sup> University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA  
<sup>56</sup> Università di Pisa, Scuola Normale Superiore and INFN, I-56010 Pisa, Italy  
<sup>57</sup> Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX 77446, USA  
<sup>58</sup> Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA  
<sup>59</sup> Università di Roma La Sapienza, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-00185 Roma, Italy  
<sup>60</sup> Universität Rostock, D-18051 Rostock, Germany  
<sup>61</sup> Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, USA  
<sup>62</sup> Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QX, United Kingdom  
<sup>63</sup> DAPNIA, Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique/Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France  
<sup>64</sup> University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, USA  
<sup>65</sup> Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Stanford, CA 94309, USA  
<sup>66</sup> Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-4060, USA  
<sup>67</sup> TRIUMF, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 2A3  
<sup>68</sup> University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, USA  
<sup>69</sup> University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX 75083, USA  
<sup>70</sup> Università di Torino, Dipartimento di Fisica Sperimentale and INFN, I-10125 Torino, Italy  
<sup>71</sup> Università di Trieste, Dipartimento di Fisica and INFN, I-34127 Trieste, Italy  
<sup>72</sup> Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37235, USA  
<sup>73</sup> University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 3P6  
<sup>74</sup> University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA  
<sup>75</sup> Yale University, New Haven, CT 06511, USA

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We present an updated measurement of time-dependent  $CP$ -violating asymmetries in neutral  $B$  decays by the *BABAR* detector at the PEP-II asymmetric  $B$  Factory at SLAC. The new result uses an additional sample of  $\Upsilon(4S)$  decays collected in 2001, bringing the total sample to 32 million  $B\bar{B}$  pairs. In this sample, we find events in which one neutral  $B$  meson is fully reconstructed in a final state containing charmonium and the flavor of the other neutral  $B$  meson is determined from its decay products. The amplitude of the  $CP$ -violating asymmetry, which in the Standard Model is proportional to  $\sin 2\beta$ , is derived from the decay time distributions in such events. The result  $\sin 2\beta = 0.59 \pm 0.14$  (stat)  $\pm 0.05$  (syst) establishes  $CP$  violation in the  $B$  meson system at the  $4.1\sigma$  level. We also determine the direct  $CP$  term  $|\lambda| = 0.93 \pm 0.09$  (stat)  $\pm 0.03$  (syst).

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$CP$  violation has been a central concern of particle physics since its discovery in 1964 [1] in the decays of  $K_L^0$  mesons. An elegant explanation of this effect was proposed by Kobayashi and Maskawa, as a  $CP$ -violating phase in the three-generation CKM quark-mixing matrix [2]. In this picture measurements of  $CP$ -violating asymmetries in the time distributions of charmonium-containing  $b \rightarrow c\bar{s}$  decays of  $B^0$  and  $\bar{B}^0$  mesons provide a direct test of the Standard Model of electroweak interactions [3], uncontaminated by corrections from strong interactions that obscure the theoretical interpretation of the observed  $CP$  violation in  $K_L^0$  decays.

Measurements of the  $CP$  violating asymmetry parameter  $\sin 2\beta$  have recently been reported by the *BABAR* [4] and *BELLE* [5] collaborations, from data taken in 1999 and 2000 at the PEP-II and KEK-B asymmetric-energy  $e^+e^-$  colliders respectively, with a better precision than the previous experiments [6]. While the average of all such measurements is suggestive, no single experiment has determined whether or not  $CP$  symmetry is violated in  $B$  decays. In this letter we report a new measurement of  $\sin 2\beta$  enhanced by 9 million  $B\bar{B}$  pairs collected in 2001, additional decay modes, and improvements in data reconstruction and analysis. The *BABAR* detector and the experimental method are described in Ref. [4, 7], so the discussion here is limited to items and issues pertinent to the current analysis.

The complete data set (32 million  $B\bar{B}$  pairs) has been used to fully reconstruct a sample  $B_{CP}$  of neutral  $B$  mesons decaying to  $J/\psi K_S^0$ ,  $\psi(2S)K_S^0$ ,  $J/\psi K_L^0$ ,  $\chi_{c1}K_S^0$ , and to the  $J/\psi K^{*0}, K^{*0} \rightarrow K_S^0\pi^0$  final states. (The last two modes have been added since Ref. [4]). There are several other significant changes in the analysis. Improvements in track and  $K_S^0$  reconstruction efficiency in 2001 data produced an approximate 30% increase for a given luminosity in the yields; better alignment of the tracking systems in 2001 data and improvements in the tag vertex reconstruction algorithm increased the sensitivity of the measurement by an additional 10%; optimizing the  $J/\psi K_L^0$  selection has increased the purity of this sample. The final  $B_{CP}$  sample contains about 640 signal events, and with all the improvements the statistical power of the analysis is almost doubled with respect to that of Ref. [4].

We examine each of the events in the  $B_{CP}$  sample for evidence that the other neutral  $B$  meson decayed as a  $B^0$  or a  $\bar{B}^0$  (flavor tag). The decay-time distribution for events with a  $B^0$  or a  $\bar{B}^0$  tag can be expressed in terms of a complex parameter  $\lambda$  that depends on both  $B^0\bar{B}^0$  mixing and on the amplitudes describing  $\bar{B}^0$  and  $B^0$  decay to a common final state  $f$  [8]. The distribution  $f_+(\text{f}_-)$  of the decay rate when the tagging meson is a  $B^0(\bar{B}^0)$  is given by

$$f_{\pm}(\Delta t) = \frac{e^{-|\Delta t|/\tau_{B^0}}}{2\tau_{B^0}(1+|\lambda|^2)} \times \left[ \frac{1+|\lambda|^2}{2} \right. \\ \left. \pm Im \lambda \sin(\Delta m_{B^0}\Delta t) \mp \frac{1-|\lambda|^2}{2} \cos(\Delta m_{B^0}\Delta t) \right], \quad (1)$$

where  $\Delta t = t_{CP} - t_{tag}$  is the time between the two  $B$  decays,  $\tau_{B^0}$  is the  $B^0$  lifetime and  $\Delta m_{B^0}$  is the mass difference determined from  $B^0\bar{B}^0$  mixing [9]. The first oscillatory term in Eq. 1 is due to interference between direct decay and decay after mixing. A difference between the  $B^0$  and  $\bar{B}^0$  distributions or a  $\Delta t$  asymmetry for either flavor tag is evidence for  $CP$  violation.

In the Standard Model for charmonium-containing  $b \rightarrow c\bar{s}$  decays  $\lambda = \eta_f e^{-2i\beta}$ , where  $\eta_f$  is the  $CP$  eigenvalue of the state  $f$  and  $\beta = \arg[-V_{cd}V_{cb}^*/V_{td}V_{tb}^*]$  is an angle of the Unitarity Triangle of the three-generation CKM matrix [2]. Thus, the time-dependent  $CP$ -violating asymmetry is

$$A_{CP}(\Delta t) \equiv \frac{f_+(\Delta t) - f_-(\Delta t)}{f_+(\Delta t) + f_-(\Delta t)} \\ = -\eta_f \sin 2\beta \sin(\Delta m_{B^0} \Delta t), \quad (2)$$

where  $\eta_f = -1$  for  $J/\psi K_S^0$ ,  $\psi(2S)K_S^0$  and  $\chi_{c1}K_S^0$  and  $+1$  for  $J/\psi K_L^0$ . Due to the presence of even ( $L=0,2$ ) and odd ( $L=1$ ) orbital angular momenta in the  $J/\psi K^{*0}(K^{*0} \rightarrow K_S^0\pi^0)$  system, there can be  $CP$ -even and  $CP$ -odd contributions to the decay rate. By ignoring the angular information in the decay, the measured  $CP$  asymmetry in  $J/\psi K^{*0}$  is reduced by a dilution factor  $D_{\perp} = 1 - 2R_{\perp}$ , where  $R_{\perp}$  is the fraction of  $L=1$  component. We have measured  $R_{\perp} = (16 \pm 3.5)\%$  [10] which, after acceptance corrections, leads to an effective  $\eta_f = 0.65 \pm 0.07$ .

The hadronic event selection, lepton and charged kaon identification,  $J/\psi$  and  $\psi(2S)$  reconstruction relevant

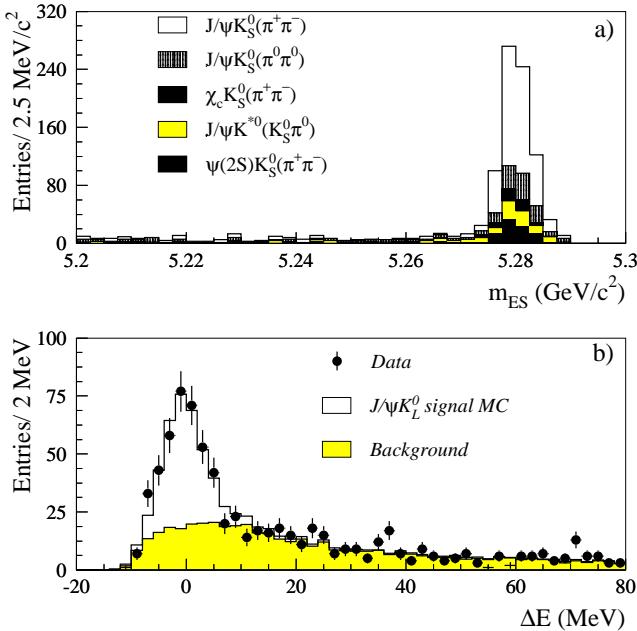


FIG. 1: a) Distribution of  $m_{ES}$  for  $B_{CP}$  candidates having a  $K_S^0$  in the final state; b) distribution of  $\Delta E$  for  $J/\psi K_L^0$  candidates.

to this analysis has been described in Ref. [4] as have the selection criteria for the channels  $J/\psi K_S^0$  ( $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-, \pi^0\pi^0$ ),  $\psi(2S)K_S^0$  ( $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$ ), and  $J/\psi K_L^0$ . These same requirements are applied to the new data sample with the exception of the transverse missing momentum requirement in  $J/\psi K_L^0$  selection, which is better optimized for the time-dependent asymmetry study.

For the decay  $B^0 \rightarrow \chi_{c1} K_S^0$ , the mode  $\chi_{c1} \rightarrow J/\psi \gamma$  is reconstructed with mass-constrained  $J/\psi$  candidates selected as in other charmonium channels [4]. Photons must have an energy greater than 150 MeV and not be associated to any reconstructed  $\pi^0$ . The resulting  $J/\psi \gamma$  mass was required to be within 35 MeV/c $^2$  of the  $\chi_{c1}$  mass [9].

For the decay  $B^0 \rightarrow J/\psi K^{*0}$  the  $K^{*0} \rightarrow K_S^0\pi^0$  candidate is formed by combining  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  candidate satisfying  $106 \leq m_{\gamma\gamma} \leq 153$  MeV/c $^2$  with a  $K_S^0$  candidate. The cosine of the angle between the  $K_S^0$  momentum vector in the  $K^{*0}$  rest frame and the  $K^{*0}$  momentum defined in the  $B$  rest frame is required to be less than 0.95. We require  $792 \leq m_{K_S^0\pi^0} \leq 992$  MeV/c $^2$ .

$B_{CP}$  candidates are selected by requiring that the difference  $\Delta E$  between their energy and the beam energy in the center-of-mass frame be less than  $3\sigma$  from zero. For  $K_S^0$  modes, the beam-energy substituted mass  $m_{ES} = \sqrt{(E_{beam}^{\text{cm}})^2 - (p_B^{\text{cm}})^2}$  must be greater than 5.2 GeV/c $^2$ . The resolution for  $\Delta E$  is about 10 MeV, except for the  $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0$  mode (33 MeV), the  $J/\psi K^{*0}$  (20 MeV) and the  $J/\psi K_L^0$  (3 MeV after  $B$  mass constraint). For the purpose of determining numbers of events and purities

a signal region  $m_{ES} > 5.27$  GeV/c $^2$  is used for all modes except  $J/\psi K_L^0$  and  $J/\psi K^{*0}$ .

Fig. 1 shows the resulting  $m_{ES}$  distributions for  $B_{CP}$  candidates containing a  $K_S^0$ , and  $\Delta E$  for the candidates containing a  $K_L^0$ . The  $B_{CP}$  sample is composed of 1230 events in the signal region, with an estimated background of 200 events, predominantly in the  $J/\psi K_L^0$  channel. For that channel, the composition, effective  $\eta_f$ , and  $\Delta E$  distributions of the individual background sources are taken either from a Monte Carlo simulation (for  $B$  decays to  $J/\psi$ ) or from the  $m_{\ell^+\ell^-}$  sidebands in data.

A measurement of  $A_{CP}$  requires determination of the experimental  $\Delta t$  resolution and the fraction of events in which the tag assignment is incorrect. A mistag fraction  $w$  reduces the observed asymmetry by a factor  $(1 - 2w)$ . A sample of  $B$  decays  $B_{\text{flav}}$  [11] used in the determination of the mistag fractions and  $\Delta t$  resolution functions consists of the channels  $D^{(*)-}h^+(h^+ = \pi^+, \rho^+, a_1^+)$  and  $J/\psi K^{*0}$  ( $K^{*0} \rightarrow K^+\pi^-$ ). A control sample of charged  $B$  mesons decaying to the final states  $J/\psi K^{(*)+}$ ,  $\psi(2S)K^+$ ,  $\chi_{c1}K^+$  and  $\bar{D}^{(*)0}\pi^+$  is used for validation studies.

For flavor tagging, we exploit information from the other  $B$  decay in the event. Each event is assigned to one of four hierarchical, mutually exclusive tagging categories or excluded from further analysis. The **Lepton** and **Kaon** categories contain events with high momentum leptons from semileptonic  $B$  decays or with kaons whose charge is correlated with the flavor of the decaying  $b$  quark (e.g., a positive lepton yields a  $B^0$  tag). The **NT1** and **NT2** categories are based on a neural network algorithm whose tagging power arises primarily from soft pions from  $D^*$  decays and from recovering unidentified primary leptons [4].

The number of tagged events and the signal purity, determined from fits to the  $m_{ES}$  (all  $K_S^0$  modes except  $K^{*0}$ ) or  $\Delta E$  ( $K_L^0$  mode) distributions in data or from MC simulation ( $K^{*0}$  mode) are shown in Table I. The efficiencies and dilutions for the four tagging categories are measured from data and summarized in Table II.

The uncertainty in the  $\Delta t$  measurement is dominated by the measurement of the position  $z_{\text{tag}}$  of the tagging vertex. The tagging vertex is determined by fitting the tracks not belonging to the  $B_{CP}$  (or  $B_{\text{flav}}$ ) candidate to a common vertex. The method employed is identical to our previous analysis except for the addition of a constraint from knowledge of the beam spot location and beam direction. This is incorporated through the addition to the tagging vertex of a pseudotrack, computed from the  $B_{CP}$  ( $B_{\text{flav}}$ ) vertex and three-momentum, the beamspot (with a vertical size of 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and the average  $\Upsilon(4S)$  momentum. The average resolution achieved by this algorithm for  $\Delta z = z_{CP} - z_{\text{tag}}$  is 180  $\mu\text{m}$  and its efficiency increases from 86% [4] to 97%. The time interval  $\Delta t$  between the two  $B$  decays is then determined from the  $\Delta z$  measurement, including an event-by-event correction for the direction of the  $B$  with respect to the

TABLE I: Number of tagged events, signal purity and result of fitting for  $CP$  asymmetries in the full  $CP$  sample and in various subsamples, as well as in the  $B_{\text{flav}}$  and charged  $B$  control samples. Errors are statistical only.

Sample	$N_{\text{tag}}$	Purity (%)	$\sin 2\beta$
$J/\psi K_S^0, \psi(2S)K_S^0, \chi_{c1}K_S^0$	480	96	$0.56 \pm 0.15$
$J/\psi K_L^0$	271	51	$0.70 \pm 0.34$
$J/\psi K^{*0}, K^{*0} \rightarrow K_S^0\pi^0$	50	74	$0.82 \pm 1.00$
Full $CP$ sample	801	80	$0.59 \pm 0.14$
<hr/>			
$J/\psi K_S^0, \psi(2S)K_S^0, \chi_{c1}K_S^0$ only			
$J/\psi K_S^0 (K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-)$	316	98	$0.45 \pm 0.18$
$J/\psi K_S^0 (K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0)$	64	94	$0.70 \pm 0.50$
$\psi(2S)K_S^0 (K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-)$	67	98	$0.47 \pm 0.42$
$\chi_{c1}K_S^0$	33	97	$2.59 \pm 0.67$
Lepton tags	74	100	$0.54 \pm 0.29$
Kaon tags	271	98	$0.59 \pm 0.20$
NT1 tags	46	97	$0.67 \pm 0.45$
NT2 tags	89	95	$0.10 \pm 0.74$
$B^0$ tags	234	98	$0.50 \pm 0.22$
$\bar{B}^0$ tags	246	97	$0.61 \pm 0.22$
$B_{\text{flav}}$ sample	7591	86	$0.02 \pm 0.04$
Charged $B$ sample	6814	86	$0.03 \pm 0.04$

TABLE II: Average mistag fractions  $w_i$  and mistag differences  $\Delta w_i = w_i(B^0) - w_i(\bar{B}^0)$  extracted for each tagging category  $i$  from the maximum-likelihood fit to the time distribution for the fully-reconstructed  $B^0$  sample ( $B_{\text{flav}} + B_{CP}$ ). The figure of merit for tagging is the effective tagging efficiency  $Q_i = \varepsilon_i(1 - 2w_i)^2$ , where  $\varepsilon_i$  is the fraction of events with a reconstructed tag vertex that are assigned to the  $i^{\text{th}}$  category. Uncertainties are statistical only. The statistical error on  $\sin 2\beta$  is proportional to  $1/\sqrt{Q}$ , where  $Q = \sum Q_i$ .

Category	$\varepsilon$ (%)	$w$ (%)	$\Delta w$ (%)	$Q$ (%)
Lepton	$10.9 \pm 0.3$	$8.9 \pm 1.3$	$0.9 \pm 2.2$	$7.4 \pm 0.5$
Kaon	$35.8 \pm 0.5$	$17.6 \pm 1.0$	$-1.9 \pm 1.9$	$15.0 \pm 0.9$
NT1	$7.8 \pm 0.3$	$22.0 \pm 2.1$	$5.6 \pm 3.2$	$2.5 \pm 0.4$
NT2	$13.8 \pm 0.3$	$35.1 \pm 1.9$	$-5.9 \pm 2.7$	$1.2 \pm 0.3$
All	$68.4 \pm 0.7$			$26.1 \pm 1.2$

$z$  direction in the  $\Upsilon(4S)$  frame. An accepted candidate must have a converged fit for the  $B_{CP}$  and  $B_{\text{tag}}$  vertices, an error of less than  $400 \mu\text{m}$  on  $\Delta z$ , and a measured  $|\Delta t| < 20 \text{ ps}$ .

The  $\sin 2\beta$  measurement is made with an unbinned maximum likelihood fit to the  $\Delta t$  distribution of the combined  $B_{CP}$  and  $B_{\text{flav}}$  tagged samples. The  $\Delta t$  distribution of the former is given by Eq. 1, with  $|\lambda| = 1$ . The  $B_{\text{flav}}$  sample evolves according to the known rate for flavor oscillations in neutral  $B$  mesons. The amplitudes for  $B_{CP}$  asymmetries and for  $B_{\text{flav}}$  flavor oscillations are reduced by the same factor  $(1 - 2w)$  due to mistags. Both distributions are convoluted with a common  $\Delta t$  resolution function and corrected for backgrounds, incorporated with different assumptions about their  $\Delta t$  evolution and convoluted with a separate resolu-

tion function. Events are assigned signal and background probabilities based on the  $m_{\text{ES}}$  (all modes except  $J/\psi K_L^0$ ) or  $\Delta E$  ( $J/\psi K_L^0$ ) distributions.

The representation of the  $\Delta t$  resolution function is the same as in [4] with small changes: all offsets are modeled to be proportional to  $\sigma_{\Delta t}$  since this quantity is correlated with the weight that the daughters of long-lived charm particles have in the tagging vertex reconstruction. Separate resolution functions have been used for the data collected in year 1999 and 2000 and those collected in year 2001 due to the significant improvement in the silicon vertex detector (SVT) alignment. The scale factor for the tail component is fixed to the Monte Carlo value since it is strongly correlated with the other resolution function parameters.

A total of 45 parameters are varied in the fit, including  $\sin 2\beta$  (1), the average mistag fraction  $w$  and the difference  $\Delta w$  between  $B^0$  and  $\bar{B}^0$  mistags for each tagging category (8), parameters for the signal  $\Delta t$  resolution (16), and parameters for background time dependence (9),  $\Delta t$  resolution (3) and mistag fractions (8). The determination of the mistag fractions and signal  $\Delta t$  resolution function is dominated by the high-statistics  $B_{\text{flav}}$  sample, while background parameters are governed by events with  $m_{\text{ES}} < 5.27 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ . As a result, the largest correlation between  $\sin 2\beta$  and any linear combination of the other free parameters is only 0.127. We fix  $\tau_{B^0} = 1.548 \text{ ps}$  and  $\Delta m_{B^0} = 0.472 \hbar \text{ ps}^{-1}$  [9].

Fig. 2 shows the  $\Delta t$  distributions and the  $CP$  asymmetries  $A_{CP}$  as a function of  $\Delta t$  overlaid with the likelihood fit result for the  $\eta_f = -1$  and  $\eta_f = +1$  samples. The combined fit to the  $CP$  decay modes and the flavor decay modes yields

$$\sin 2\beta = 0.59 \pm 0.14 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.05 \text{ (syst)}.$$

Repeating the fit with all parameters fixed to their determined values except  $\sin 2\beta$ , we find a total contribution of  $\pm 0.02$  to the error on  $\sin 2\beta$  due to the combined statistical uncertainties in mistag rates,  $\Delta t$  resolution and background parameters. The dominant sources of systematic error are the assumed parameterization of the  $\Delta t$  resolution function (0.03), due in part to residual uncertainties in SVT alignment, possible differences in the mistag fractions between the  $B_{CP}$  and  $B_{\text{flav}}$  samples (0.03) and uncertainties in the level, composition, and  $CP$  asymmetry of the background in the selected  $CP$  events (0.02). The systematic errors from uncertainties in  $\Delta m_{B^0}$  and  $\tau_{B^0}$  and from the parameterization of the background in the selected  $B_{\text{flav}}$  sample are small; an increase of  $0.02 \hbar \text{ ps}^{-1}$  in the value for  $\Delta m_{B^0}$  decreases  $\sin 2\beta$  by 0.015.

The large sample of reconstructed events allows a number of consistency checks, including separation of the data by decay mode, tagging category and  $B_{\text{tag}}$  flavor. The results of fits to these subsamples are shown in Table I for the high-purity  $K_S^0$  events. The probability of

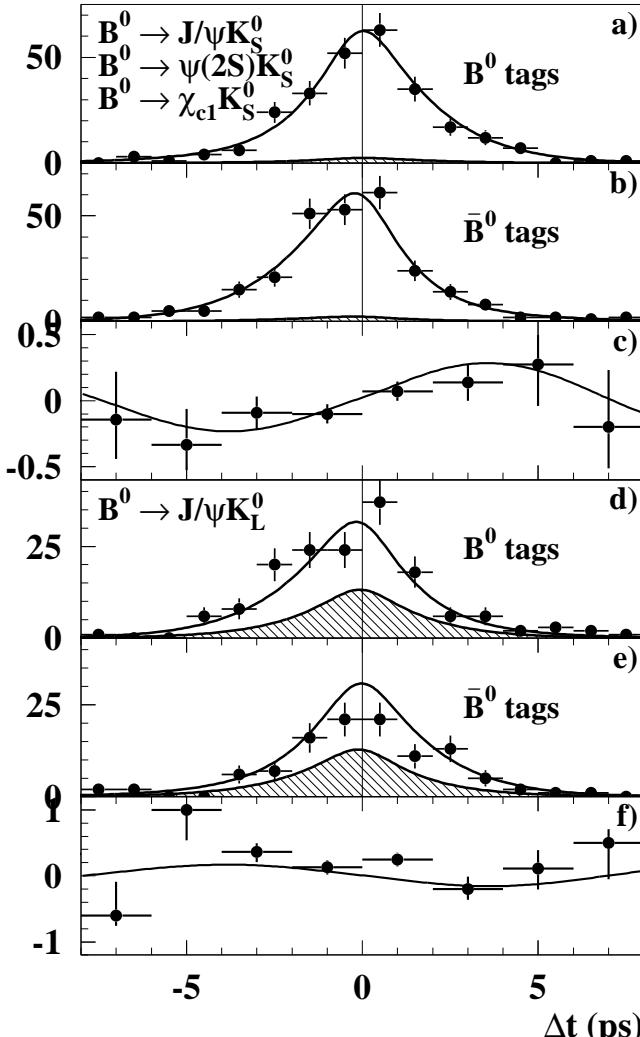


FIG. 2: Number of reconstructed  $\eta_f = -1$  candidates ( $J/\psi K_S^0$ ,  $\psi(2S)K_S^0$ , and  $\chi_{c1}K_S^0$ ) a) with a  $B^0$  tag  $N_{B^0}$  and b) with a  $\bar{B}^0$  tag  $N_{\bar{B}^0}$  and c) the asymmetry  $(N_{B^0} - N_{\bar{B}^0})/(N_{B^0} + N_{\bar{B}^0})$  as function of  $\Delta t$ . The solid curves represent the result of the combined fit to all selected CP events. The figures d)-f) contain the corresponding information for the  $J/\psi K_L^0$  mode. The probability of obtaining a lower likelihood, evaluated using a Monte Carlo technique, is 27% .

finding a worse agreement among different modes is estimated to be 8%. Table I also shows results of fits with the samples of non- $CP$  decay modes, where no statistically significant asymmetry is found. Performing the current analysis on the previously published data sample and with the same modes yields a value of  $\sin 2\beta = 0.32 \pm 0.18$ , consistent with the published value [4]. Using the same decay modes in the year 2001 data, the analysis yields  $\sin 2\beta = 0.83 \pm 0.23$ , which is consistent with the 1999-2000 data at the  $1.8\sigma$  level.

If  $|\lambda|$  is allowed to float in the fit to the  $\eta_f = -1$  sample, the value obtained is

$$|\lambda| = 0.93 \pm 0.09(\text{stat}) \pm 0.03(\text{sys}).$$

The systematic error in this measurement is dominated by the statistical uncertainty in the relative tagging efficiency between  $B^0$  and  $\bar{B}^0$  mesons.

This measurement of  $\sin 2\beta$  establishes  $CP$  violation in  $B$  decays at  $4.1\sigma$  level. The probability of obtaining a value of  $\sin 2\beta = 0.59$  or higher when the true value is 0 is less than  $3.2 \times 10^{-5}$ . This direct measurement is in agreement with the range implied by measurements and theoretical estimates of the magnitudes of CKM matrix elements [12].

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\* Also with Università di Perugia, I-06100 Perugia, Italy

† Also with Università della Basilicata, I-85100 Potenza, Italy

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